

**Bendix Sonar Systems Replacement****FY2003 Request: \$300,000**  
**Reference No: 35849****AP/AL:** Appropriation**Project Type:** Renewal and Replacement**Category:** Natural Resources**Location:** Kenai Peninsula Borough**Contact:** Doug Mecum**Election District:** Kenai Areawide**Contact Phone:** (907)465-4210**Estimated Project Dates:** 07/01/2002 - 06/30/2007**Brief Summary and Statement of Need:**

This CIP will fund the purchase of new sonar equipment to replace aging Bendix sonar systems currently in use on the Kenai and Kasilof Rivers on the Kenai Peninsula that provide daily escapement estimates to manage sockeye salmon fisheries. Bendix sonar is used on the Kvichak River near Bristol Bay to provide smolt outmigration estimates, an important component of the Bristol Bay sockeye salmon forecast model. Timely replacement of this near-obsolete equipment is critical for managing these fisheries.

**Funding:**

	FY2003	FY2004	FY2005	FY2006	FY2007	FY2008	Total
Gen Fund	\$300,000						\$300,000
Total:	\$300,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$300,000

<input type="checkbox"/> State Match Required	<input type="checkbox"/> One-Time Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased Project	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On-Going Project
0% = Minimum State Match % Required		<input type="checkbox"/> Amendment	<input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health Bill

**Operating & Maintenance Costs:**

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Staff</u>
Total Operating Impact:	0	0
One-Time Startup Costs:	0	
Additional Estimated Annual O&M:	0	0

**Prior Funding History / Additional Information:**

There are three appropriations that funded sonar systems during the 1990's.

**Replacement of Bendix sonars on the Kenai and Kasilof Rivers**

This project will purchase equipment to replace the aging Bendix sonar systems as well as perform the fieldwork necessary to optimize this new equipment for the Kenai and Kasilof Rivers. For over 30 years, Upper Cook Inlet commercial fishery managers have relied on daily escapement estimates from Bendix sonars on these rivers to manage sockeye salmon fisheries. The Bendix counters are aging, parts are becoming obsolete, and the inventor and maintainer of these systems is retiring. The timely replacement of these systems is critical for managing these fisheries. Replacing the existing sonars will require profiling the river bottom to locate the best deployment site and aid in transducer beam selection, developing site-specific sonar parameters and sampling strategies for the new system, and once a new system is in place and operating, comparing the new sonar system with the Bendix sonar to determine the relationship between the two estimates.

**Kvichak River Smolt Sonar Replacement**

The goal of this project is to complete the replacement of the existing Bendix sonar system with a new sonar system. Smolt outmigration estimates are an important component of the Bristol Bay sockeye salmon forecast model. Currently, these estimates are produced using an early 1980's model Bendix sonar system. This system can't be replaced and parts are becoming obsolete. The Kvichak River smolt sonar project has been under evaluation using funds from the Western Alaska Fishery Disaster project. This project was successful in evaluating the present system, recommending a replacement system, and testing the new system in the field. Funding is needed to purchase additional equipment to complete the replacement of the Bendix gear and to compare smolt estimates from the new and old equipment to ensure quality data.